

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2005

Chairman Barton  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Barton,

We write to express our support for legislation to establish a hard date for a transition to the digital television (DTV) spectrum. We believe that this legislation is one of the most important steps the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress can take to promote U.S. technological innovation and leadership. It is also an essential part of improving the inadequate public safety communication system. At the same time, we recognize the DTV transition will impact some consumers who do not already have a digital tuner or receive service from cable or satellite providers. Thus, we believe the legislation must include a financial mechanism to provide consumers with digital converter devices. We strongly believe these goals are all compatible and achievable.

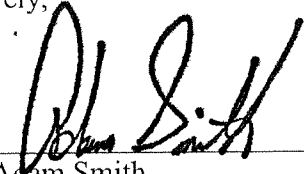
Once the spectrum becomes available reclaimed as part of the DTV transition, our nation's police and firefighters will be able to vastly improve their communications capabilities. Communications interoperability failures among first responders on 9/11 underscored the importance of making the DTV transition. The 9/11 Commission recommended that Congress approve legislation to clear these channels for public safety. We believe Congress must ensure our public safety officials have the best technology available and the DTV transition is an important part of that commitment.

The DTV transition also holds the potential to address the problem of access to broadband in underserved communities. In many rural and urban communities, broadband access is limited or unavailable. Wireless broadband solutions could solve much of this problem, and that technology has already been developed for use in the vacated spectrum. Again, this opportunity can only be realized when the transition is complete and the spectrum becomes available.

The wireless broadband technology that can be deployed using the spectrum vacated in the DTV transition also provides the opportunity to bring a new competitive infrastructure throughout the telecom industry. With an alternative infrastructure rests the potential for new and innovative products and services and increased competition. Likewise, this new spectrum will provide benefits to the U.S. economy by creating a breeding ground for innovation. As we seek to compete in the global technology market place, this type of opportunity could provide multiple benefits to the nation.

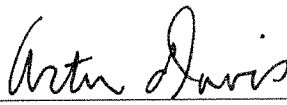
We urge you to act quickly to pass DTV transition legislation. The public safety needs are too great and the opportunities for our economy too plentiful to delay action on a hard date for the DTV transition.

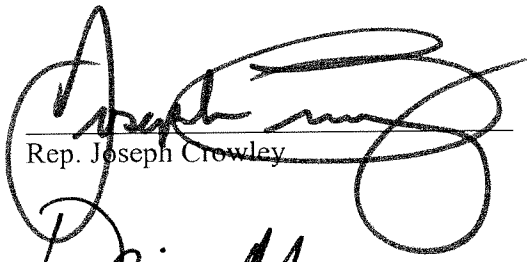
Sincerely,

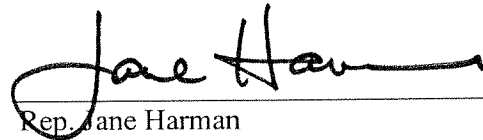
  
Rep. Adam Smith


  
Rep. Ellen Tauscher

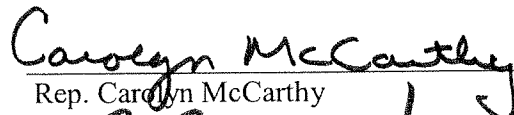
  
Rep. Ron Kind


  
Rep. Artur Davis

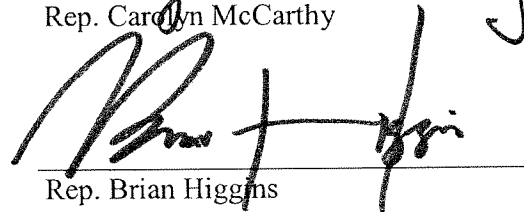
  
Rep. Joseph Crowley

  
Rep. Jane Harman

  
Rep. Dennis Moore

  
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy

  
Rep. Rick Larsen

  
Rep. Brian Higgins

  
Rep. Jim Cooper